



EFSEC

**Washington State
Energy Facility
Site Evaluation
Council**

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Starbuck Power Project Open House

Welcome to this open house sponsored by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council). This meeting is an opportunity for you to learn about the proposal to build a power plant near Starbuck, Washington, and for you to give your comments about this project.

EFSEC wants to know what issues are most important to you, so please take the time to fill out the attached comment form and place it in the **Public Comment Box** before leaving the meeting.

What is the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council?

EFSEC is responsible for siting and permitting the construction and operation of thermal energy projects greater than 250 megawatts in the State of Washington.

Operating under Chapter 80.50 of the Revised Code of Washington and Title 463 of the Washington Administrative Code, EFSEC is comprised of a Chair appointed by the Governor, and representatives from nine state agencies. Cities, counties, and port districts where projects are proposed to be located appoint Local Members to the Council to represent local interests.

What are the major steps that must be completed before a siting decision is made by EFSEC?

1. A Potential Site Study (optional).
2. The Proponent submits to EFSEC an Application for Site Certification that consists of an Environmental Report and detailed project information.
3. EFSEC holds a Land Use Consistency Hearing and Public Information Meeting.
4. EFSEC conducts a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) scoping process, including a public meeting.
5. EFSEC issues a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS).
6. The Council holds Adjudicative Proceedings.
7. The EFSEC responsible official issues a Final EIS.
8. The Council makes a recommendation to the Governor to approve or deny the project.
9. The Governor makes the final decision to approve or deny siting and construction of the project.

More information about EFSEC's project review process is available on the EFSEC web site at www.efsec.wa.gov.

The applicant, Starbuck Power Company, LLC (SPC) of Bellevue, Washington is proposing to build a 1,200-megawatt, natural gas fueled, combustion turbine power plant. SPC proposes to construct the plant on approximately 40 acres of a 100-acre site located about 6 miles northwest of the Town of Starbuck in Columbia County, Washington. Key components of the proposed project are described below.

Proposed Project Description

The Proposed Site:

- Is approximately 6 miles northwest of Starbuck.
- Is under option and owned by the BAR-Z Ranch, a Washington Corporation.
- Is zoned for industrial use.

The location of the proposed site is shown on the attached vicinity map.

The Proposed Power Plant:

Electrical energy would be produced at the plant using a "combined-cycle combustion turbine" process designed to extract energy as efficiently as possible from the natural gas fuel.

In this type of electrical generation process, natural gas is burned to fuel a combustion turbine that drives a generator to produce electrical energy. Hot exhaust from the combustion turbine is used to boil water in what is called a heat recovery steam generator, or HRSG. Steam produced by the HRSG turns a steam turbine generator, producing additional electrical energy.

Exhaust steam exiting each steam turbine generator is directed into an air-cooled condenser, where it is cooled until it condenses into water ("condensate"). This condensate drains to a condensate collection tank and is then pumped from the tank to the two HRSGs where it is reused to generate steam. This process is known as the steam production cycle.

The Starbuck Power Project would consist of two complete and separate combined cycle power blocks (or "islands") and associated support facilities. In summary, each block would consist of two gas combustion turbine generators, two HRSGs, one steam turbine generator, and one air-cooled condenser.

Transportation:

State Road 261, a two-lane highway, is adjacent to the south side of the property, and a Union Pacific rail line passes south of the highway. At the present time, SPC does not anticipate major roadwork for SR-261, only the construction of egress/ingress routes to the property and associated highway improvements.

Proposed Gas Pipeline:

Pacific Gas & Energy's (PG&E) Gas Transmission-Northwest (GT-NW) 36-inch natural gas mainline is approximately 200 feet from the southeast corner of the project site. The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) owns the property between the GT-NW pipeline and the project site. SPC would need to obtain an easement from the Corps to install a 20-inch diameter pipeline to connect the project to the GT-NW main pipeline. SPC would be responsible for installing and maintaining this 200-foot-long pipeline.

Proposed Power Lines:

In January 2000, SPC requested that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) interconnect the proposed project to the BPA system between the Little Goose and Lower Monumental 500 kV transmission lines. BPA completed a System Impact Study in June 2000, which identified the following needs to interconnect the proposed project to BPA's transmission grid should the project be approved:

- A switchyard at the project site and an interconnection to the exiting 500 kV

transmission line that extends over the property.

- A 15-mile 500 kV transmission line from the project site to the Lower Monumental Dam switchyard.

BPA is now in the process of performing a Facilities Study that would identify the route of the transmission line to the Lower Monumental switchyard and to establish the design of the additional equipment and upgrades. The Facilities Study is scheduled to be completed March 2001.

Water Supply:

To minimize water use, an air-cooled (as opposed to water-cooled) condenser is being proposed. Total water usage for the Starbuck Power Project would be approximately 74,000 gallons per day (GPD).

The project has secured an option to purchase 100 gallons per minute (gpm), or up to 144,000 GPD, of water from the Town of Starbuck's existing water right. A 5-mile water pipeline would be constructed from the Town of Starbuck to the project site. SPC proposes to locate this line within an abandoned railroad right-of-way that parallels SR-261 from Starbuck to just south of the project site.

Water Discharge:

SPC is proposing that project wastewater and storm water be collected in a retention pond located at the south end of the property and then discharged into the soil through a system of perforated pipes.

Key Issues:

Issues of concern that will be considered in the project analysis include, but are not limited to:

- Water Supply and Wastewater Discharge
- Impacts to Transportation
- Air Quality
- Impacts to Fish, Plants, and Wildlife
- Noise
- Visual Impacts
- Health and Safety
- Economic Impacts

The EFSEC Review Process

The Potential Site Study: A pre-application analysis

Starbuck Power Company (SPC) has submitted a request for a Potential Site Study to EFSEC. The purpose of a **Potential Site Study** is to identify environmental, health and safety, social, or regulatory issues related to locating a proposed major energy facility at a proposed site. In addition to this initial **environmental assessment**, a Potential Site Study will assist the applicant in knowing what environmental and other impacts must be addressed and the level of information that must be included in a site application. This information will be developed as a **work plan or criteria document** that will be used to prepare an application that will satisfy the Council's filing requirements and those of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). It is the Council's intent that these requirements be fully integrated in a single document: the **Application for Site Certification, (ASC or application) which will consist of an Environmental Report, and additional detailed information on the proposed project.**

The Potential Site Study will also provide for **extensive involvement of state, local, and federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and the opportunity for public input** in discussing the possible effects of a proposed project. This early participation of interested stakeholders assists an applicant in developing an ASC that avoids or mitigates potential impacts, while ensuring that adequate information is available to assess a proposal.

These **pre-application** activities that are conducted as part of the Potential Site Study are designed to provide for the full disclosure, preliminary scoping, assessment of project impacts, and the involvement of interested agencies and persons prior to submittal of an application. This upfront work is very important to the overall process and streamlines the state's siting process while allowing for the more efficient use of applicant and agency resources.

Preparation of the Application

Based on the work plan prepared as a result of the Potential Site Study, the applicant, SPC, will complete any additional studies required by the

Potential Site Study and will prepare the application.

Application Submittal to the Council

Submittal of the application by SPC to the Council will initiate the EFSEC application review process, which will include the following steps:

- Notification of those on the project mailing list that the document has been filed with the Council;
- Distribution of the ASC to state agencies and stakeholders for review;
- Making copies of the ASC available for public reference at local libraries; and
- Review of the document by EFSEC's independent consultants, Jones & Stokes. Jones & Stokes will ensure that the information in the ASC is complete and objective, and will submit their findings to EFSEC (as required by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.50.071-1.a).

Within 60 days of receipt of the application, the Council will hold an **Initial Public Meeting** on the proposed project. The meeting will be held in the vicinity of the proposed project after notifying public officials, publishing public notices, and issuing news releases. The initial public meeting has several purposes:

- To inform the public of the proposed project and of the Council's review process;
- To determine the proposed project's consistency with local land use ordinances; and
- To invite the public to comment on the project application.

Environmental Impact Statement

Based on the information gathered during the review of the application by the Council's consultant, and on the public comments received at the Initial Public Meeting and through scoping, EFSEC will prepare and issue a SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment pursuant to SEPA. (As described below under BPA's role, the EIS will be a joint SEPA/federal document for this project.) The public will be notified when the document is issued and will have the opportunity to comment at public hearings and via written comments.

EFSEC will address the issues and comments raised by the Draft EIS public comment process. A Final EIS will be prepared and EFSEC will provide notice to all interested persons when the Final EIS is issued.

Adjudicative Proceedings

EFSEC's certification process calls for the Council to hold formal hearings on the proposed project to allow the applicant and opponents to present information to support their cases. The purpose of these trial-like hearings, or "Adjudication Proceedings" is for the Council to resolve remaining issues and make a siting recommendation to the Governor. Adjudicative Proceedings are conducted according to RCW Chapter 34.05. These provisions emphasize the right of all parties to a fair hearing, and the requirement for legal due process in the administration of the hearing.

Intervention and Counsel for the Environment

To participate in the hearings, parties likely to be affected by impacts of the proposed energy facility petition the Council for ***intervenor*** status. Interested persons, Indian Tribes, public or environmental groups, or local, state, or federal agencies may petition the Council to become intervenors in the proceedings. Participants who are granted legal status as intervenors have the opportunity to call expert witnesses, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and join all aspects of the legal process.

Another participant is the ***Counsel for the Environment***, a state appointed Assistant Attorney General, whose role in the hearings is to represent the broad interests of all Washington citizens and their interest in protecting the quality of the environment.

Adjudicative Hearings

The extensive adjudicative hearings cover contested issues or project impacts, including environmental, socioeconomic, and public safety concerns. Through examination and cross-examination by the Applicant, intervenors, Counsel for the Environment, and EFSEC members themselves, each potential impact is examined in detail. Parties and intervenors have legal counsel represent them during the hearings.

The testimony and exhibits introduced during these proceedings, including the EIS, are the basis for the record the Council will refer to when determining whether to recommend project approval or disapproval to the Governor. Information from these proceedings is also used to determine conditions for construction and operation of the project. The applicant must meet these conditions if the Governor approves the project.

Air and Water Discharge Permits

In tandem with the adjudicative proceedings, the Council initiates its process for developing air emissions and water discharge permits. The Starbuck Power Project would be required to obtain a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit, which would establish the conditions and limits of permitted air emissions. The proponent may also be required to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharging wastes into the state's waters during construction and operation of the facility.

The Council is required by state and federal law to prepare draft PSD and NPDES discharge permits for public comment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated responsibility for issuing PSD and NPDES permits to the Council for projects under EFSEC jurisdiction. Any permit issued would meet all local, state, and federal Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act standards

Council Considerations

After the close of the hearings, EFSEC Council members will study the record at length. They will carefully weigh all of the evidence before them, and then will recommend to the Governor whether to approve or deny the project application. If the Council finds that the project should proceed, it will recommend to the Governor that the project be approved, and will develop a Site Certification Agreement (SCA) to be signed by the Governor. The SCA has all of the environmental, social, economic, and engineering conditions the applicant must meet for construction and operation throughout the life of the project.

If the Council finds that the project will have significant impacts that cannot be mitigated, or that

it is not in the best interest of the state, it will recommend to the Governor that s/he deny the project.

The Governor has 60 days to consider the Council's recommendation and can take one of the following actions:

1. Approve the Council recommendation and execute the draft SCA;
2. Deny the application; or
3. Direct the Council to reconsider certain aspects of the project.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

EFSEC's review process includes the following opportunities for public comment and involvement:

- Open Houses - December 5 and 6, 2000
- Environmental Scoping Meetings*
- Initial Public Information Meeting and Land-Use Consistency Hearing*
- Draft EIS Public Written Comments and Hearing*
- Adjudicative Public Witness Testimony Hearings*
- Draft Air (PSD) and Water (NPDES) Discharge Permit Written Comments and Hearings*
- Written Comments to EFSEC

* Dates and Locations to be announced - Call (360) 956-2121 to get added to the project mailing list!

THE ROLE OF BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION (BPA)

Because BPA will be constructing and operating facilities required to transport power and could purchase power from the Starbuck project, they must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BPA has decided to prepare a NEPA EIS to meet these requirements.

BPA will work with EFSEC to prepare a joint SEPA/NEPA EIS that will address the environmental requirements and responsibilities of both agencies and will assess the potential impacts of the transmission lines, the natural gas pipeline, and the generation plant. Please see the attached page entitled "The Role of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)."

PRELIMINARY EFSEC REVIEW SCHEDULE

Potential Site Study Completed:	Spring 2001
Application Submitted:	Summer 2001
Draft EIS Issued for Comment:	Fall 2001
Preliminary Final EIS Issued:	Winter 2001
Adjudicative Hearings:	Winter 2001
Governor's Decision:	Spring 2002
Final EIS Issued:	Winter 2001
Recommendation to the Governor:	Spring 2002

Please fill out the attached comment sheet and let us know what issues are most important to you!

- ☒ To submit comments about the Starbuck Power Project, or for more information about EFSEC's review and the application process, please contact:

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- ☒ To obtain future updates about the project and notice of public meetings, please add your name and complete address to the sign-in sheet or call (360) 956-2121.